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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/5/07

SPONSOR Papen LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Expand NMSU Radio & Television Stations SB 134

ANALYST Leger

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$470.0	Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 135

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

New Mexico State University (NMSU)

New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 134 appropriates \$470 thousand from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for the purpose of expanding the public broadcasting radio and television stations.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$470 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY08 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

KRWG-TV and KRWG-FM the television and radio station of NMSU are seeking funds needed for the digital conversion of broadcasting. According to HED the Federal Communication

Commission (FCC) has mandated a planned phase-out of analog broadcasting. Without the required conversion the stations runs the risk of losing its interference protection provided by the FCC. In addition to the digital conversion the appropriation within SB 134 replace outdated equipment, allows in-state travel through the geographic region served by the stations, and one staff member.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Both stations serve the southern New Mexico region. According to NMSU, KRWG-FM operates five translators whose signal extends to Silver City, Alamogordo, Truth or Consequences, Lordsburg, and Deming. KRWG-TV has 11 translators; the signal extends to Silver City, Alamogordo, Lordsburg, Deming, Truth or Consequences, Cliff-Gila, Hatch, Hillsborough, Caballo, and other portions of Dona Ana county not covered by the main transmitter.

The stations provide a learning environment for students in the department of journalism and mass communications. Students are involved and often produce the news segments on air.

### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

SB 135 appropriates \$80 thousand to NMSU to expand educational television services.

JL/nt